(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) results achieved from ISDS in the State; and

(d) other steps being taken by Government to make available good quality particularly hybrid seeds in Gujarat at affordable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Seed Development Programme for not Easily Accessible and Remote Areas of States/Union Territories including Gujarat was launched in 1995-96 for two years. The scheme was discontinued from April, 1997.

(c) Results achieved by the Government of Gujarat are as under:

(i) Number of trainings conducted for farmers on seed production and quality control;

(ii) Number of Seed Demonstrations conducted to show the superiority of certified seed over non-certified seed of local varieties;

(iii) Quantity of seed transported to 89.30 Qtls. not easily accessible and remote areas of the State.

(d) The timely supply of seed to the farmers at reasonable rates is primarily the responsibility of the State Government whose efforts are supplemented by the Central Government. The Central Government assesses the State-wise requirement and availability of seeds prior to each sowing season i.e. Kharif and Rabi, with the State Governments and other seed producing agencies through Zonal Seed Review Meetings. For Kharif 2000, the seed availability as reported by the Government of Gujarat is 2.47 lakh quintals, against the seed requirement of 2.12 lakh quintals for the State.

Utilisation of Modern Technologies in Agriculture

3552. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to orgainse Swadeshi Vigyan Mela in Hyderabad or Visakhapatnam to acquaint farmers with utilization of modern technologies in agriculture with the assistance of Government agencies and agricultural universities;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) questions do not arise.

Improvement in the Productivity of Cash Crops

3553. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to improve the productivity of cash crops like coffee, tea, rubber, coconut etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The steps taken by the Government for increasing production and productivity of Coffee, Tea, Rubber and Coconut are given below:

Coffee: The Coffee Board implements programmes for intensive cultivation, replanting, quality improvement and water augmentation. The Board has also been providing necessary support in the form of agricultural research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other necessary back up supports like supply of coffee seeds for planting purposes. The productivity of coffee which was around 780 Kg./ha. at the beginning of 8th Plan has increased to 860 Kg./ha. by the end of 8th Plan. On productivity front, India ranks 3rd among the major coffee producing countries.

Tea: Tea Board is encouraging activities such as replanting, rejuvenation and infilling, extension planting, new plantation, creation of irrigation facilities, improvement of drainage and Research & Development. The productivity of tea in India has increased from 1794 kg. / ha. in 1991 to 1996 Kg. / ha. in 1998.

Rubber: The Rubber Board is making available financial and technical assistance for new planting and replanting with improved varieties, production and distribution of high yielding planting materials to growers, rendering advisory, extension and training service; encouraging group processing and marketing among small holders, undertaking research on cultivation, production and processing of rubber. A World Bank assisted Rubber Project is also under implementation from 1993-94 to enhance production and improve quality of